



DATE: November 9, 2006

FROM: Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources  
Co-Chair, California Biodiversity Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Chrisman".

TO: California Biodiversity Council and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Council Thanks and Update, Biodiversity Along the Border Committee

Thanks to all of you for making our September 27-28 Council field tour and meeting in San Diego a great success. As you know, the Council decided to form a "Biodiversity Along the Border Committee" to follow up on several natural resources issues common to both Mexico and the United States. We also asked that the executive committee and staff organize a meeting of the new committee prior to December 14, our next Council meeting.

I'd also like to give you a short update on our progress since September 28.

Mike Pool, state director, Bureau of Land Management, and I have discussed the new committee. The Resources Agency will lead this effort as the work will largely involve coordinating programs led by the State of California and the State of Baja. CBC staff lead Mike Chapel, US Forest Service, will serve as my coordinator as we begin this project. Mike will work with Ricardo Martinez (State Water Resources Control Board) to coordinate work from Sacramento.

On October 6, the CBC executive committee recommended that we hire a part-time local project coordinator. Janet Fairbanks was identified by the committee for that role and has agreed to participate. Recently retired from SANDAG, Janet had the lead role in organizing our September meeting. As the necessary arrangements to bring Janet on board are in the works, she and Mike are drafting a work plan for the Biodiversity Along the Border committee. To date, we have confirmed that the following CBC members have agreed to serve on the committee:

California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Environmental Protection Agency

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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
California Resources Agency  
Integrated Waste Management Board  
SANDAG  
State Water Resources Control Board  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service  
USDI Bureau of Land Management  
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service  
USDI Geological Survey  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

It would be most helpful if the listed agencies could provide the name of their primary contact for this project as soon as possible. All remaining CBC members are encouraged to participate if they are willing to help us pursue the action items listed below that were discussed at the meeting. Please contact Mike Chapel or Lauren McNees if your agency is interested in participating. If your agency has already committed to participate, please send the contact information for your committee representative to Lauren McNees as soon as possible.

In sum, the action items that we identified for our new committee on September 28 are:

- Identifying next steps for pursuing the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative
- Considering new or revised conservation easements in the region
- Seeking funds for several water quality improvement projects in the Tijuana River Basin

We are also planning to invite participation by the governments of Baja, Tijuana, and Tecate. The Border Patrol Agency is not a member of the CBC, but we will also seek their assistance. Some key non-profit groups such as The Nature Conservancy and Pronatura will also be asked to join.

As always, we welcome your thoughts on our planning and progress. I look forward to working with many of you as we begin this important new effort. If you have questions or comments about this project, please forward them to Mike Chapel (916.498.5323 or [mchapel@fs.fed.us](mailto:mchapel@fs.fed.us)) or Lauren McNees (916.445.5845 or [lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov](mailto:lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov)).